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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) **CONFIDENTIAL** REPORT

TITLE Soviet Engineer Exercise at Dessau. 50X1-HUM

EVALUATION _____

DATE OF CONTENT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 16 August 1951

REFERENCES _____ 50X1-HUM

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. Between 21 and 31 July 1951, Soviet engineer units with pontoons, motorboats and large amphibious vehicles practiced on the south bank of the Elbe River, opposite the Rietzmack (M 52/E 07)-Brambach area. Most of the troops were very young and seemed to be recruits.

2. Vehicular movements through Dessau included:

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24 July. Convoy of about 10 trucks _____
_____ proceeding toward Rossau, with the first three trucks towing 76.2-mm guns.

25 July. Convoy of four trucks _____ including
_____ proceeding toward Rossau, with each truck carrying 8 to 10
soldiers and 1 AA machine gun.

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28 July. Truck _____ towing a generator, proceeding toward Rossau (1). 50X1-HUM

3. In the morning and afternoon of 1 August two trains at the Dessau freight yard were loaded with engineer units having the following equipment:

Morning Train. Fifty trucks _____ and amphibious vehicles

_____ The trucks were loaded with bridge-building equipment. Ten boxcars of the train were occupied by troops. 50X1-HUM

Afternoon Train. From 60 to 80 trucks _____ and several amphibious vehicles _____ (2) 50X1-HUM

4. Simultaneously with the movements of engineer units, intensive training activity of the German Volkspolizei school from Kochstedt was observed in the Dessau-Aken area. A police column of 15 sidecar motorcycles, 1 truck and 40 bicycles, all of them occupied by VP Meistern and Kommissaren, was observed driving along Kuehnauer Strasse. (3) Motor vehicles of the Soviet Army which were seen on the same road at the same time _____

Comments.

- (1) The information is the first indication that the second engineer exercise at Aken is completed.
- (2) The vehicles on the first train belonged to engineer components of the two Eighth Gds Army corps, the 21st Gds Mecz Div, and the 39th and 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

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The vehicles [redacted] on the same train belonged to the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GDF from Rossau. It is unlikely that engineer components, possibly companies of six different major units should have been transported to Thuringia collectively and subsequently rejoined their respective corps or divisions at the Kindel and Odruf troop training grounds. However, the presence of a component of the 36th Pan Bridge Regt on the train also indicates the possibility that the engineer units were moved collectively to a special engineer training site. The vehicles of the second train belonged to the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div exclusively.

- (3) The German Volkspolizei school in Kochstedt is known from previous reports. It gives tactical training to Volkspolizei officers.

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